

For Immediate Release

Contact: Whitney Phillips 202-225-2801

HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DELCARATION

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Washington, DC (Sept. 24, 2010)- U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin welcomed the President's major disaster declaration announced Thursday night that will help affected South Dakota communities recover from severe storms and flooding that occurred July 21-30, 2010.

“This is the sixth presidential disaster declaration due to extreme weather for South Dakota since late December,” Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. “These events have caused significant damage to large portions of our state and show the need to continue to develop improved ways to manage disasters such as flooding over the long-term. That's why this week I've introduced the Rural Flood Mitigation and Recovery Act, which will improve the abilities of rural and tribal communities to respond to yearly flooding. I'll continue to work with federal, state and local officials, as well as tribal leaders, to assist in disaster recovery and mitigation.”

Rep. Herseth Sandlin has held nine community meetings in addition to other discussions with federal, state and local stakeholders since April to discuss ways South Dakota can improve its ability to respond to the current flooding and mitigate the effects of future flooding and other disasters.

Brule, Clay, Fall River, Hand, Jerauld, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Miner, Sanborn, Turner, and Union Counties are eligible for federal aid because of this declaration.

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